

# ***Town of Frederick Town Board***



Eric Doering, Mayor

Sue Wedel, Mayor Pro Tem  
Liberta Hattel, Trustee  
Amy Schiers, Trustee

Tony Carey, Trustee  
Gerry Pfirsch, Trustee  
Jim Wollack, Trustee

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**IM 2009- 001**

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## **TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON APRIL 7, 2009 TO FORM AND ELECT MEMBERS OF A HOME RULE CHARTER COMMISSION**

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**Agenda Date:** Town Board Meeting – January 13, 2008

**Attachments:** a. Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

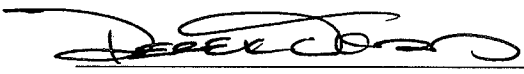
**Issue/Request:** Should the Board of Trustees wish to continue in the Home Rule Charter adoption process, the first step is to adopt an ordinance calling for an election to form and elect members of a Home Rule Charter Commission. The date specified herein for the election, April 7, 2009, is the same date that was suggested for the election in the timeline that Board of Trustees has previously considered and adopted for use in moving through the process.

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**Submitted by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jordan Eichen

**Approved for Presentation:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Administrator

**AV Use Anticipated**

Projector \_\_\_\_\_ Laptop \_\_\_\_\_

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**Certification of Board Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Detail of Issue/Request:** When calling for the election and setting the date of the election, the Board of Trustees also must set the number of Charter Commission members. The minimum number of commissioners may be nine, and the maximum number of commissioners allowed by statute is twenty-one. Some benefits of setting the commission membership at a smaller number (i.e. nine) might include:

- Easier to reach consensus when debating/deliberating.
- Easier to moderate discussion among commission members.
- Greater likelihood that all seats would be filled via election.

There could be drawbacks, however, of having a smaller commission, such as:

- Smaller number of viewpoints.

There might also be some benefits if a larger number of commissioners were included on the commission, such as:

- Wider range of opinions considered during discussion/debate.
- Lower likelihood of interested candidates not being able to serve on commission.

And then, there would also be drawbacks of having a larger charter commission, possibly including:

- More difficult to arrive at consensus.
- More difficult to moderate discussion among commission members.
- Less likely that all seats would be filled via election.

Changing topics slightly, it might be useful to re-consider some potential benefits of becoming a home rule municipality. The following are among the benefits that the Town of Frederick might realize if it was to become a Home Rule municipality:

- Ability to address matters of local concern at local level, rather than requiring action from State Legislature.
- Ability to collect own sales taxes (this would be especially helpful in Frederick due to multiple Frederick zip codes).
- Ability to codify form of government.
- Etc.

**Legal/Political Considerations:** Please see attached ordinance.

**Alternatives/Options:**

Option A: Adopt the ordinance calling for the election to form and elect members of a Home Rule Charter Commission on April 7, 2009.

Option B: Do not adopt the ordinance.

Option C: Direct staff to follow some other course of action.

**Financial Considerations:**

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff seeks direction from the Board.